

Mr. President, I salute Hitchiner Manufacturing Company, Inc. and commend their president, John Morison, for his innovative ideas and spirit of community. It is an honor to represent them in the United States Senate.●

#### SOUTH CAROLINA PEACHES

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize South Carolina's peach farmers for their hard work and their delicious peaches.

My staff has been delivering South Carolina peaches to offices throughout the Senate and the U.S. Capitol all day. Thanks to South Carolina peach farmers, those of us here in Washington will be able to cool off from the summer heat with delicious South Carolina peaches.

For a relatively small state, South Carolina is second in the nation in peach production. In fact, this year farmers across South Carolina planted more than 16,000 acres of peaches. As my colleagues can attest, these are some of the finest peaches produced anywhere in the United States.

As we savor the taste of these South Carolina peaches, we should remember the work and labor that goes into producing such a delicious fruit. While Americans enjoy peaches for appetizers, entrees, and desserts, most do not stop to consider where they come from. Farmers will be laboring all summer in the heat and humidity to bring us what we call the "perfect candy." What else curbs a sweet tooth—is delicious, nutritious, and satisfying, but not fattening? The truth is, Mr. President, that our farmers are too often the forgotten workers in our country. Through their dedication and commitment, our nation is able to enjoy a wonderful selection of fresh fruit, vegetables, and other foods. In fact, our agricultural system, at times, is the envy of the world.

Mr. President, as Senators and their staff feast on these delicious peaches, I hope they will remember the people in South Carolina who made this endeavor possible: David Winkles and the entire South Carolina Farm Bureau; and the South Carolina Peach Council. They have all worked extremely hard to ensure that the Senate gets a taste of South Carolina.

I hope everyone in our Nation's Capitol will be smiling as they enjoy the pleasure of South Carolina peaches.●

#### TRIBUTE TO TOM RECHTIN, SR.

● Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a fine Kentucky businessman, Tom Rechtin, Sr., President of Tom Rechtin Heating, Air Conditioning and Electric Company.

Tom was recently named "1999 Outstanding Business Person" by the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce for his community leadership

and 35 years of education advocacy. The honor was given as part of the A.D. Albright awards program, which is named for Northern Kentucky University's president emeritus, who was known for encouraging educational excellence in the region.

The Albright Award recognizes Tom's commitment to supporting and encouraging educational activities in the workplace and in the community. His own company serves as a model for his philosophy, as his employees attend and participate in numerous classes and seminars he facilitates. Tom Rechtin's company also employs student interns who are seeking certification.

Tom was also recently named the "1998 National Contractor of the Year" by the National Association of Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors, and "Kentucky Contractor of the Year" by the Kentucky Association of Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors.

Tom began working in the industry after high school and, over the years, moved through the ranks from an entry-level position to eventually owning his own company. Today, Tom is one of the most well-known and well-respected businessmen in the state, with over 12,000 customers in Northern Kentucky, Eastern Indiana, and Southern Ohio.

Tom is a three-time appointee by the Governor to the Kentucky HVAC Licensing Board, which oversees the licensing and continuing education programs for the state's HVAC journeymen and Master License holders. He has been an example to board members and the entire industry by implementing his own rigorous employee training programs. His leadership and success in the field is one of the reasons Tom has been named Vice President of the Kentucky HVAC Licensing Board.

My colleagues and I congratulate you, Tom, on your recent accomplishments and commend your many years of service to Northern Kentucky's business community. Best wishes for many years of continued success.

Mr. President, I ask that the following Campbell County Recorder article from June 17, 1999, be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Campbell County Recorder, June 17, 1999]

#### CHAMBER ANNOUNCES ALBRIGHT WINNERS TOM RECHTIN

This year's Outstanding Business Person recipient, Tom Rechtin, has been a community leader, role model and an advocate for education for more than 35 years. Rechtin has used his personal and professional experience, knowledge and ability to include others to advance the educational system and consequently the economy in Northern Kentucky.

This recipient of the Albright Award encourages employees to attend certification

classes, participate in seminars and get involved in company educational programs. He provides tuition assistance for employees and currently employs four student interns who are seeking certification.

He supports education within his company and is an educational advocate in the community. Coupled with Cincinnati Public Schools, he helped found the first apprenticeship and continuing education program in the Tristate. Along with the Northern Kentucky Home Builders Association, he helped develop the first heating and cooling apprenticeship program in Northern Kentucky, and as chairman of the apprenticeship committee, he continues to develop new programs and lead efforts to fund the program.

Further, Rechtin is a member of the Kentucky State Licensing Board, serves on a Citizens Task Force aimed at evaluating and improving Bellevue Schools, and founded SMART TECH—a class that is offered at NKU annually to journeymen to meet state licensing requirements. Most recently, he sought to carry out a federal School-To-Work federal initiative promoting schools and businesses to share knowledge and develop practical curriculums for students entering the workforce.

Outside of his work with education and his company, he is a member of the Chamber of Commerce's Workforce Readiness Council, a Master with the Boy Scouts of America, an athletic sponsor with the Bellevue Vets, a member of the Bellevue Renewal Committee and a council member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

The Chamber of Commerce is the largest volunteer business organization in Northern Kentucky. It works to encourage and promote economic well being, quality growth and community development for both Northern Kentucky and the region.●

#### TRI-CITIES, TN-VA: 1999 RECIPIENT OF THE ALL-AMERICA CITY AWARD

● Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, when our Founding Fathers began their fight for our Nation's independence, they had a vision of what America would be like. They saw a free and self-reliant people, ruled by State and local governments, who took responsibility for their own welfare and progress, and cared for themselves and for others in their own communities.

When Alexis de Tocqueville came to America almost a century later, that is what he saw. He later wrote that, in America, when a citizen saw a problem that needed solving, he would cross the street and discuss it with a neighbor, together the neighbors would form a committee, and before long the problem would be solved. "You may not believe this," he said, "but not a single bureaucrat would ever have been involved."

While today our citizens are increasingly ruled, not by local governments, but by Washington, the essence of what it means to be an American has not changed: We are a people willing to lend a hand, lift a spirit, and work together to make our land a better place.

For 50 years, the All-America City Awards have designated—from among all the cities in America—10 communities that have carried on this time-